

Amendment to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 11, and 13-15. Please cancel claims 2 and 12.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of creating photo vignettes, said method comprising:

receiving digitized photos over a communication network;

storing said digitized photos;

accessing digitized photos;

accessing photo-clustering parameters; [[and]]

clustering said digitized photos in accordance with said photo-clustering parameters to obtain digitized photo vignettes;

accessing a photo-distribution parameter; and

selectively distributing said digitized photo vignettes to recipients over a communication network in accordance with said photo-distribution parameter.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim [[2]] 1, wherein said photo-distribution parameter is selected from [[the]] a group consisting essentially of: [[the]] a time when said digitized photos were taken, [[the]] a geographic location at which the digitized photos were taken, [[the]] a camera used to take said digitized photos, [[the]] a camera's position relative to the subject matter of said digitized photos, a specified subject matter of said digitized photos, the person who produced said digitized photos, a receiver of said digitized photo vignettes, and [[the]] a confidentiality classification of the subject matter of said digitized photos.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said photo-clustering parameter is selected from [[the]] a group consisting essentially of: [[the]] a time when said digitized photos were taken, [[the]] a geographic location at which the digitized photos were taken, [[the]] a camera

used to take said digitized photos, [[the]] a camera's position relative to the subject matter of said digitized photos, a specified subject matter of said digitized photos, the person who produced said digitized photos, a receiver of said digitized photo vignettes, and [[the]] a confidentiality classification of the subject matter of said digitized photos.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said digitized photos are obtained by using a photo-acquisition device selected from [[the]] a group consisting essentially of: a digitized cell-phone camera, a video camera, a computer camera, a Personal Digital Assistant, a conventional camera, an existing repository, and a photo scanner camera.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: annotating at least a portion of said digitized photo vignettes with meta data pertaining to said digitized photo vignettes.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for inducing acquisition of photo images, said system comprising:

a photo-accessor receiving photo images over a communication network, for storing the images and for accessing the photo images;

a photo-clusterer for clustering said photo images to obtain digitized photo vignettes; and

a photo-distributor for ~~enabling selective distribution of said digitized photo vignettes such that a user is enabled to freely acquire said photo images and have said photo images automatically clustered into said digitized photo vignettes for selective distribution~~ selectively distributing said digitized photo vignettes to recipients over a communication network in accordance with a photo-distribution parameter.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising: a media repository for storing said photo images and said digitized photo vignettes.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said photo-accessor is configured to access digitized photo images acquired from a photo-

acquisition device selected from [[the]] a group consisting essentially of: a digitized cell-phone camera, a video camera, a computer camera, a Personal Digital Assistant, a conventional camera, an existing repository, and a photo scanner.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said photo-distributor comprises a digitized photo presentation module.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions stored therein, said instructions for causing a computer system to perform a method of creating photo vignettes, said method comprising:

receiving digitized photos over a communication network;

storing said digitized photos;

accessing digitized photos;

accessing photo-clustering parameters; [[and]]

clustering said digitized photos in accordance with said photo-clustering parameters to obtain digitized photo vignettes;

accessing a photo-distribution parameter; and

selectively distributing said digitized photo vignettes to recipients over a communication network in accordance with said photo-distribution parameter.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim [[12]] 11, wherein said photograph-distribution parameter is selected from [[the]] a group consisting essentially of: [[the]] a time when said digitized photos were taken, [[the]] a geographic location at which the digitized photos were taken, [[the]] a camera used to take said digitized photos, [[the]] a camera's position relative to the subject matter of said digitized photos, a specified subject matter of said digitized photos, [[the]] a person who produced said digitized photos, a receiver of said digitized photo vignettes, and [[the]] a confidentiality classification of the subject matter of said digitized photos.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said photo-clustering parameter is selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group consisting essentially of: the time when said digitized photos were taken, ~~[[the]]~~ a geographic location at which the digitized photos were taken, ~~[[the]]~~ a camera used to take said digitized photos, ~~[[the]]~~ a camera's position relative to the subject matter of said digitized photos, a specified subject matter of said digitized photos, ~~[[the]]~~ a person who produced said digitized photos, a receiver of said digitized photo vignettes, and ~~[[the]]~~ a confidentiality classification of the subject matter of said digitized photos.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said photo images are obtained by using a photo-acquisition device selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group consisting essentially of: a digitized cell-phone camera, a video camera, a computer camera, a Personal Digital Assistant, a conventional camera, an existing repository, and a photo scanner camera.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said method further comprises: annotating at least a portion of said digitized photo vignettes with meta data pertaining to said digitized photo vignettes.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, comprising a digital storage device including a CD, a diskette, a video cassette, electronic mail and a digital memory device.